

# MASTER PLUMBER CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

CITY OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI  
CITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
414 EAST 12<sup>TH</sup> STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106  
(816) 513-1500 X 3

## A. LICENSE & CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION DEFINED

A license is authority granted to the person, firm, partnership, company, corporation, association, agency, or other entity to whom it is issued to engage in the business of contracting to perform certain work. A license is not transferable (Section 18-326, Code of Ordinances).

A certificate of qualification is authority granted to an individual to perform certain skilled tradeswork and is not transferable (Section 18-336, Code of Ordinances).

A contractor license is required for an individual or business to perform regulated work and is distinct from the supervisor's certificate of qualification. As such, a contractor license must be applied for and procured separately from the supervisor's certificate.

## B. LICENSE & CERTIFICATE CLASSIFICATION

A licensed plumbing contractor shall be authorized to do the following:

Installation, maintenance, repair, servicing, and testing of all sanitary plumbing and potable water supply piping, and appliances connected thereto, including gas piping, and the complete installation of water heaters; the installation of piping for transmission of chemicals and gases where regulated by the code; the installation of gas ranges, domestic gas incinerators, gas dryers, and other gas-fired appliances; the installation of steam heating plants carrying pressures not exceeding 15 pounds per square inch gauge steam pressure; the installation of hot water heating plants carrying pressures not exceeding 30 pounds per square inch gauge hot water pressure; and installation of low-voltage wiring not exceeding 48 volts for gas-fire appliances and water heaters when such wiring is not enclosed in conduit or raceway.

All work shall be performed by or under the supervision of the holder of a master plumber certificate of qualification.

## C. REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE

A certificate application must include a completed application form, the required reference letters described below, a \$55.00 nonrefundable application fee, and either proof of passage of an acceptable substitute exam or a request for an exam registration form for an examination to be given for the City of Kansas City, Missouri, by Prometric or the International Code Council (ICC). Checks are to be made payable to City Treasurer/CPD-DS and are to be submitted, along with the application and required supporting documentation, to the address shown above.

The applicant must meet these requirements:

- (1) The applicant shall provide at least two notarized reference letters completed and signed by official representatives of at least two companies engaged in the plumbing trade and verifying that the applicant has the required number of years and level of experience in the installation of plumbing, as shown under C(2), below. The reference letters (provided by CPD-DS as part of the standard information packet) must be filled out in their entirety, and all critical areas of experience must be verified therein.

**NOTE:** References shall come only from the applicant's past or present supervisors or employers in the plumbing trade (i.e., bona fide managerial staff, company owners, corporate officers, partners, or principals). References shall **not** be accepted from these sources: material suppliers, the applicant's own past or present employees, individuals who have served under the applicant's direction, inspections staff from any jurisdiction, insurance representatives, bank representatives, or other sources not having direct personal knowledge and oversight of the applicant's tradeswork. One of the applicant's required reference letters may come from a relative, but only where that party is the individual's employer or direct supervisor and is actually a bona fide practitioner of the trade in which the applicant is seeking certification.

**EXCEPTION:** As an alternative to providing the required reference letters, the applicant may submit verifiable proof of certification in the same classification from another jurisdiction where the requirements are the same as or better than the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Such certification shall be verified with the jurisdiction issuing that certification; shall be current at the time of application with the City of Kansas City, Missouri; and shall be shown by that jurisdiction to have been issued based on equivalent or higher standards to those in place for that same classification in Kansas City, Missouri.

- (2) In order to qualify for a master plumber, an individual must meet the following experience and certification requirements:

Three years experience at the trade of plumbing, full-time, including one year as a certified journeyman plumber.

**NOTE:** *Certified journeyman plumber* shall mean certification by any jurisdiction having equivalent or higher standards than Kansas City, Missouri. The reference letters shall show that the applicant fulfilled the experience and certification requirement referenced in item C (2), above. The applicant shall provide verifiable documentation of current journeyman plumber certification through Kansas City, Missouri, or through another jurisdiction with equivalent or higher minimum certification standards in order to be considered for certification with only three years of experience at the trade. An individual having less than three years of full-time experience in the plumbing trade shall not be considered to have met this requirement, regardless of any certification(s) held.

Please note that experience illegally gained in the City of Kansas City, Missouri, shall not be permitted to count toward fulfillment of the minimum requirements and may result in temporary or permanent disqualification of the applicant and any entity he/she represents.

- (3) The applicant shall be at least 21 years of age.
- (4) The applicant shall be a senior high school graduate or shall have passed the General Educational Development Test. One additional year of experience may be substituted for each year of high school accreditation lacking.
- (5) The applicant shall earn a score of 70% or higher on one of the two recognized exams administered for Kansas City, Missouri: the master plumbing with gas (30315) examination administered by Prometric or the master plumber with gas examination administered by ICC.

**EXCEPTION:** The Kansas City, Missouri, examination may be waived if the applicant has earned a passing score of 70% or higher on a standard Prometric or ICC examination or other department-approved national testing agency examination **comparable in content** to the examination currently given for the City of Kansas City, Missouri. **The applicant must provide verifiable documentation of the examination which is acceptable to the Building Official.** Please note that, if 70% is not considered a passing score on the particular version of the exam the applicant has taken, it shall not be considered a passing score for the purposes of certification by the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

#### D. APPLICATION REVIEW

The application will be reviewed for compliance with the work experience, education, and age requirements outlined on the preceding page; and applicants will be notified of any deficiencies. **All references may be contacted by CPD-DS for verification of work experience; and all certification requirements must be deemed satisfied before a certificate can be issued.**

#### E. EXAMINATION SCHEDULING

When the application has been accepted by CPD-DS, the applicant will be mailed an examination registration form for the testing agency whose exam he/she has selected. The information booklets included in the original mailing contain information concerning examination fees, content, format, references, dates, locations, deadlines, etc. Additional copies can be obtained online from Prometric at [www.prometric.com/default.htm](http://www.prometric.com/default.htm) and from ICC at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org). It is up to the applicant to decide which testing agency's qualifying exam to take; however, only one test can be taken per one-month period, regardless of which agency and test site are used. The testing agency shall send the applicant a confirmation letter concerning the date, time, location, and type of examination for which he/she has been scheduled.

Please note that both agencies operate on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited as to the number of examinees they can accommodate at their sites on any given day. Furthermore, the registration form and payment must reach the testing agency no later than the published application deadline to be considered for a given test date. Therefore, it is to the applicant's advantage to turn in his/her examination registration form and proper payment to the selected testing agency as early as possible. Examination fees are neither refundable nor transferable.

#### F. EXAM SCORE REPORTING

The testing agency shall mail the applicant written confirmation of his/her score and pass/fail status. The score is not valid until such time as the City of Kansas City, Missouri, receives official confirmation from the testing agency. Applicants electing to take the ICC examination shall be responsible for advising the City of their status after they have passed it so the City can seek confirmation from ICC, update their files, and make a determination.

Please note that the examination must be taken and passed and the passing score reported to the City of Kansas City, Missouri, by the testing agency within one year of the application processing date; otherwise, the application becomes null and void, and the individual must reapply for further consideration.

**Please also note that an individual may attain a passing exam score and still be denied certification for failure to meet the other minimum qualifications.**